DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 257 723 SO 016 502

TITLE	Wilson's Creek National Battlefield. Educators' Study Guide.
INSTITUTION	Wilson's Creek National Battlefield Foundation, Springfield, MO.
SPONS AGENCY	Missouri Committee for the Humanities, Inc. (NEH), Springfield.
PUB DATE	Sep 83
NOTE	31p.; Some illustrations, maps, and small print might not reproduce clearly.
AVAILALLE FROM	Wilson's Creek National Battlefield, Postal Drawer C, Republic, MO 65738 (single copies free to educators and non-profit organizations).
PUB TYPE	Guides - Classroom Use - Guides (For Teachers) (052)
EDRS PRICE	MF01/PC02 Plus Postage.
DESCRIPTORS	*Civil War (United States); Instructional Materials; *Local History; Secondary Education; *State History; United States History; Unitr of Study
IDENTIFIERS	*Missouri

ABSTRACT

Intended as a local history unit for secondary students in southwest Missouri, materials in this packet focus on a major battle in the Civil War. After reading a narrative and examining maps of the area, students study the impact of the battle on Missouri history, learn more about the environment and cultural history of the area, and develop an appreciation of the state's heritage. "The Battle of Wilson Creek and the Struggle in Missouri during 1861" (Leo E. Huff), a five-page narrative, is followed by a list of over 40 books, articles, and other material about Wilson's Creek and Greene County (Missouri). A map of the battlefield, two historic base maps showing troop movement, a map showing ground cover of the area, and an explanation of the environmental area are followed by illustrations of a Missouri Union Volunteer Infantry soldier and a Missouri State Guard Infantry Confererate. A publications list and information on the Wilson Creek National Battlefield Foundation are followed by a description of the Battle of Wilson's Creek, the men who commanded the armies, and the battlefield tour. The packet could serve as a model for those developing local history materials in other states. (LH)

****
* Reproductions supplied by EDRS are the best that can be made *
* from the original document. *
****

ED257723

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION
EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES INFORMATION CENTER (ERIC)

☐ This document has been reproduced as received from the person or organization originating it.

☒ Minor changes have been made to improve reproduction quality.

• Points of view or opinions stated in this document do not necessarily represent official NIE position or policy.

Educators' Study Guide to

Wilson's Creek

NATIONAL BATTLEFIELD

"PERMISSION TO REPRODUCE THIS MATERIAL HAS BEEN GRANTED BY

Lynn Livingston

TO THE EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES INFORMATION CENTER (ERIC)."

SP 016502

Wilson's Creek National Battlefield Foundation

SPRINGFIELD, MISSOURI

Wilson's Creek

NATIONAL
BATTLEFIELD

SPRINGFIELD, MISSOURI

This Project is Supported by a Grant From
THE MISSOURI COMMITTEE FOR THE HUMANITIES, INC.,
The State-Based Arm of
THE NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE HUMANITIES.

Table of Contents

INTRODUCTION

THE BATTLE:

THE BATTLE OF WILSON'S CREEK AND
THE STRUGGLE IN MISSOURI DURING 1861

BIBLIOGRAPHY:

BATTLE OF WILSON'S CREEK, August 10, 1861
GREENE COUNTY IN THE BEGINNING

MAPS:

WILSON'S CREEK NATIONAL BATTLEFIELD
HISTORIC BASE MAP: Troop Movement 7:30 a.m.
HISTORIC BASE MAP: Troop Movement 12:30 p.m.
HISTORICAL BASE & GROUND COVER MAP
WILSON'S CREEK NATIONAL BATTLEFIELD:
ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES AREA

ILLUSTRATIONS:

2ND MISSOURI UNION VOLUNTEER INFANTRY
MISSOURI STATE GUARD INFANTRY CONFEDERATE WITH COMMON RIFLE

NATIONAL PARK PUBLICATIONS:

SALE PUBLICATIONS, WILSON'S CREEK NATIONAL BATTLEFIELD
WILSON'S CREEK (National Park Service Brochure)

THE WILSON'S CREEK NATIONAL BATTLEFIELD FOUNDATION

Introduction

The Wilson's Creek National Battlefield provides an opportunity for on-site examination and study of a major battle of the Civil War — a battle which is right in the backyard of those of us living in Southwest Missouri. Visitors to the Battlefield can see displays on the park, the battle, its importance to the Civil War, the flora found in the region, and the cultural and environmental development of the area since Civil War times.

To encourage the full utilization of these resources, the Wilson's Creek National Battlefield Foundation has prepared this packet of materials. It is our hope that the information will encourage classes and other groups to visit the Battlefield, to study the impact of the battle on Missouri history, to learn more about the environment and cultural history of the area, and to develop a greater appreciation for our heritage as Missourians and Americans.

Education Committee
Wilson's Creek National Battlefield Foundation
Lynn Livingston, Chairman
Wayne C. Bartee
Leo E. Huff
David L. Lane
Jewell G. Smith
Joseph H. Straughan,
MAP Advertising Agency, Inc. provided advisory and graphic services on a volunteer basis.

Springfield, Mo.
September, 1983

THE BATTLE OF WILSON'S CREEK AND THE STRUGGLE IN MISSOURI DURING 1861

By Leo E. Huff

THE STATE IN TURMOIL

The Civil War in Missouri was truly a civil war within a war as brother fought brother and friend fought friend. The majority of the people in Missouri were pro-Union, but by a narrow margin. More military engagements were fought in Missouri than in any other state, with the exceptions of Virginia and Tennessee. (A military engagement can be a fight ranging in size from a small cavalry patrol action to a large-scale battle.)

After Abraham Lincoln's election to the Presidency in November,1860 South Carolina seceded from the Union in December, and in the next six weeks six more states from the lower South seceded. In February, 1861, delegates from these seven states met in Montgomery, Alabama, and formed the government of the Confederate States of America. Meanwhile, Governor Claiborne F. Jackson, an active secessionist, worked hard to carry Missouri out of the Union, and formed the pro-Southern Missouri State Guard.

With the prospects of civil war rising throughout the nation, both North and South began preparing for the inevitable conflict, even before Lincoln's inauguration in March. Fearing seizure of the federal arsenal at St. Louis by pro-Southern state forces, the United States government in February transferred Captain Nathaniel Lyon and his company of the 2nd U.S. Infantry from Ft. Riley, Kansas, to St. Louis to protect the arsenal. Also in February, a state convention elected to consider Federal relations, voted 89 to 1 that Missouri had no cause to dissolve her connections with the Union.

When the legislature and the convention adjourned by the end of March, the state apparently was committed to the Union. But the extremists who rallied around Governor Jackson demanded a belligerent policy. The surrender of Ft. Sumter in mid-April gave the expected impulse to the secession movement, and Governor Jackson met Lincoln's call for troops to put down the insurrection with an insulting refusal.

The secessionists had designs on the 60,000 muskets, powder and cannon in the St. Louis arsenal, which stood on low ground near the river and was open to attack. While his superior, General William Harney was absent, Lyon with Presidential approval, secretly arranged with Governor Yates of Illinois to send militia across the river on the night of April 25. Lyon had everything in readiness and threw open the arsenal gates as the militia swarmed ashore. Most of the arms and ammunition were then hurriedly loaded on a steamboat and taken to Alton, out of reach of the secessionists. Lyon now fortified the arsenal grounds and strengthened the loyal St. Louis Home Guard.

BLOODSHED IN ST. LOUIS

Most of the aristocratic St. Louis families sympathized with the Confederacy and joined pro-Southern militia companies under the command of General D. M. Frost. Early in May the pro-Southern militia formed a camp of about 700 men on the west edge of St. Louis, calling it Camp Jackson in honor of the Governor. Governor Jackson hoped that the troops training at the camp might eventually be used to capture the arsenal, and arranged to have arms and ammunition smuggled into the camp.

Lyon, in his puritanical zeal and hatred of slavery, prepared to attack Camp Jackson, which he viewed as a great menace. On May 10, while his superior was again absent, Lyon surrounded Camp Jackson with several thousand loyal troops and made the militia prisoners. The Northern press now hailed Lyon as a hero whose resolute action had saved the state for the Union. But the next day was one of the blackest in St. Louis history. Instead of paroling the disarmed militia, Lyon decided to make a spectacle of them by marching the prisoners through the streets of St. Louis. Excited and resentful Southern sympathizers poured into the streets, throwing stones and insults at the Union guards. Finally, shots were fired at the Union column, killing and wounding several soldiers. The troops fired back indiscriminately and 28 people were killed. Blood was shed in the streets, and Missouri was now given over to four years of violence and cruel intersectional warfare.

The pro-Southern state legislature passed a bill to arm the state on the Confederate side. Governor Jackson acted with energy to throw Missouri into Confederacy, and appointed former governor Sterling Price as Major General in command of the secessionist Missouri State Guard. Secessionist forces seemed to dominate most of the state outside of St. Louis, and some of them in irregular bands drove Union men from their homes and initiated guerrilla activities which in time seemed likely to make half of Missouri a desert.

GENERAL LYON IN COMMAND

Meanwhile, General Harney returned to St. Louis and did his best to restore public calm and confidence with moderate policies. Lyon and Frank Blair, Jr., a prominent St. Louis politician and a staunch Unionist, were outraged at Harney's moderate course and tried to discredit him. During May, Blair began pulling wires in Washington for Harney's removal and the appointment of Lyon in his place. The powerful Blair

family had considerable influence in Washington, and Frank's brother, Montgomery Blair, was Lincoln's Postmaster General. Finally Lincoln yielded to pressure and sent Frank Blair an order for Harney's removal in the event of an extreme emergency. On May 31, Harney was dismissed and Lyon was appointed a Brigadier General.

Blair and Lyon now took steps to disrupt the truce that Harney had worked out with Price, by which the state would not arm further.

On June 11, Blair and Lyon held a conference with Price and Governor Jackson in St. Louis. Both sides made demands which the other would not meet. Lyon closed the meeting by summarily ordering Jackson and Price outside his lines. They immediately left the city, Jackson returning to Jefferson City and Price into the field to rally his troops.

THE FIRST BATTLE IN MISSOURI AT BOONVILLE

Lyon, with several hundred troops on steamboats, moved up the river to Jefferson City. Governor Jackson and his sympathizers evacuated the capital on June 14, whereupon Lyon moved in the next day. Then Lyon followed Jackson's small force to Boonville, where on June 17 took place the first of nearly 1,100 skirmishes in Missouri, roughly one-sixth of the entire number to be fought in the war.

By putting the governor and the pro-Southern portion of the legislature to flight, Lyon forced the secessionists to operate without a base, money, or legal footing. At the same time, Lyon had given Missouri Unionists time to set up a new state government that would cooperate with Washington, and on July 31 pro-Union Hamilton Gamble was elected governor by a state convention. On the other hand, Lyon had now destroyed any possibility of compromise. No longer could Missourians hope to settle their differences at the conference table. Lyon had forced everyone to take sides. Thanks to Lyon and his secessionist counterpart, Governor Jackson, who was equally stubborn, bloody and bitter civil war had begun in Missouri.

SIGEL'S DEFEAT AT CARTHAGE

After the battle of Boonville, the state troops under Colonel J.S. Marmaduke and Governor Jackson retreated southward toward Cowskin Prairie in the southwest corner of the state where other State Guard forces were gathering. Meanwhile, before leaving St. Louis, Lyon had ordered Colonel Franz Sigel with two Missouri Volunteer regiments and an artillery battery to advance on Springfield. Sigel arrived in Springfield on June 24th after a leisurely march through Rolla. A few days later, on July 1, General T.W. Sweeney, a regular army captain recently elected a brigadier by the St. Louis Home Guards, arrived in Springfield with 1,500 troops.

When Sigel received news of the retreat of the Governor's force from Boonville, he determined to intercept it and prevent it from forming a juncture with the other forces in the southwest, thus allowing Lyon, who was slowly following Jackson, to attack the rear. Sigel immediately set out along the Mt. Vernon road for Carthage, 65 miles to the west, with the 3rd and 5th regiments of Missouri Volunteers, accompanied by a company of regulars and eight pieces of Backoff's Missouri Light Artillery Battalion. Meanwhile, on July 3, Lyon with about 2,000 left Boonville in pursuit of the governor in order to cooperate with Sigel.

Before Lyon could render any assistance, Sigel was defeated at Carthage on July 5 by the State Guards under Governor Jackson, and forced to fall back to Mt. Vernon. By this time Lyon had been reinforced by Major S.D. Sturgis arriving from Kansas City with a 1600-man brigade consisting of regular cavalry and infantry troops, and Kansas volunteers. Hearing of Sigel's defeat, Lyon changed his direction and arrived in Springfield on July 13, while Governor Jackson continued south and joined other state troops on Cowskin Prairie.

THE OPPOSING ARMIES ASSEMBLE

General Lyon, after having assumed command of all Federal troops in Southwest Missouri, set about reorganizing his little army, and fired off requests to St. Louis and Washington for reinforcements and supplies. On July 20, he sent General Sweeney with a 1,200-man task force consisting of artillery, cavalry, and infantry to break up a secession camp reported to be at Forsyth. In a sharp little skirmish on July 22, Sweeney scattered about 150 State Guard troops stationed in Forsyth and occupied the town for about twenty-four hours before returning to Springfield.

In the meantime, the Missouri secessionists were making plans to attack the Federals in Springfield. Brigadier General McCulloch, of Texas, commanding a division of Confederate troops in Northwest Arkansas, had been ordered by the Confederate government to go to the aid of the Missouri secessionists. On July 25, Major General Sterling Price, in command of the Missouri State Guard, began moving his troops from the Cowskin Prairie, in McDonald County, toward Cassville. From Fayetteville, where he was joined by a division of Arkansas State troops under Brigadier General N.B. Pearce, McCulloch also began the march into Southwest Missouri for a rendezvous with Price. So the Southern army assembling near Cassville was really composed of three separate small armies; a division of Confederate troops under McCulloch, a division of Arkansas State troops under Pearce, and the Missouri State Guard under Price.

THE DUG SPRINGS AFFAIR

Through his numerous and faithful scouts and spies, General Lyon was aware of the concentration of the Southern troops at Cassville, and of their intention of marching on Springfield. Erroneously believing that the rebel columns would not unite until near Springfield, Lyon determined to march south down the Telegraph or Old Wire Road, with his little army of 5,868 men and three artillery batteries of 18 pieces in an attempt to defeat the Southern forces in detail before they could combine. But first he sent more messages to Major General John C. Fremont, the new Federal commander in Missouri, begging for reinforcements. Fremont, preoccupied with his own plans for the defense of the eastern portion of the state, refused. Leaving behind a force of

several hundred civilian volunteers and Home Guards to protect Springfield, Lyon began his movement toward Cassville in the afternoon of August 1, camping that night 10 miles southwest of Springfield on the banks of the little stream that would be the scene of a bitter battle a few days later. The next morning, August 2, Lyon continued his march south down the Wire Road. About 5 p.m., the army halted at Dug Springs, approximately a mile south of present-day Clever. Having come upon the Southern army's advance guard consisting of several hundred mounted Missourians commanded by General James Rains. A mile or so further south a skirmish took place in an oblong valley between Lyon's advance guard of combined arms and Rains' Missourians. In this "Dug Springs Affair", or "Rains' Scare" as General McCulloch called it, both sides sustained a few casualties. Rains' troops were routed and fled southward in a panic to the main Southern army encamped along Crane Creek. McCulloch made derisive remarks about "Rains' Scare" later in his report, and expressed little confidence afterward in the mounted Missourians. The next morning, August 3, the Federals resumed the advance, going as far as Curran Post Office, or McCulla's store, about on the county line between Stone and Barry Counties, and 26 miles from Springfield. At Curran, some three miles from Dug Springs, the Federals encountered a small secessionist patrol, which was scattered by a few artillery rounds. By this time Lyon apparently became aware that the Southern forces had united, and decided to return to Springfield before he could be outflanked. On the morning of August 4, Lyon's army started back to Springfield, completing the 26-mile march on the afternoon of August 5.

McCULLOCH ASSUMES SOUTHERN COMMAND

Meanwhile, the three Southern forces, after assembling near Cassville, began the march up the Wire Road for Springfield on July 31 with McCulloch's division in the lead. By the evening of August 1 McCulloch's division had reached Crane Creek and gone into camp, with the other two divisions arriving in the vicinity later. While encamped along Crane Creek, McCulloch was reinforced by the timely arrival of Colonel Elkanah Greer's 3rd Texas Cavalry Regiment.

On the morning of August 4, in a meeting with Price and Pearce, at Price's request, McCulloch reluctantly agreed to assume overall command of the three separate Southern armies and lead the attack on Springfield. Believing that the Federals were still at Curran Post Office, McCulloch issued orders for a surprise attack, and was chagrined to learn that Lyon's army had evacuated its camp about 20 hours earlier and was falling back to Springfield. Nevertheless, McCulloch decided to make a forced march in an effort to overtake Lyon's retreating column. By the time the Southern troops went into camp at Moody's Spring, the general realized that the Federals had escaped. Learning of good camping grounds and cornfields several miles ahead where the Telegraph Road crossed Wilson's Creek, McCulloch ordered the march renewed on August 6. After a short march the Southerners halted and went into camp along both sides of Wilson's Creek, which ran generally in a north-south direction.

After two days of fruitless reconnoitering, sometimes by McCulloch personally, to determine the Federal strength and position, Price on August 8 finally received news from two women that Lyon was preparing to evacuate Springfield. An irate Price, impatient with McCulloch's delay, demanded an immediate attack. McCulloch reluctantly agreed, and issued orders for the soldiers to be ready to march on Springfield at 9 p.m., August 9, converging on the city in four columns for a daylight attack on Saturday, August 10. Just as the army was preparing to move, a light rain began falling and McCulloch ordered the troops to lie on their arms but in readiness to move, realizing that a heavy rain would ruin their ammunition, which was none too plentiful.

LYON DIVIDES HIS ARMY AND MARCHES TO ATTACK

When Lyon returned to Springfield from Curran Post Office, most of his troops camped about the city, while others acted as guards to seal off the town and prevent information regarding Federal dispositions from reaching the Confederates. Again advised by General Fremont in St. Louis that no reinforcements would be forthcoming, Lyon consulted with his senior officers whether to abandon Springfield and retreat to Rolla, the end of the rail line. The majority in the council of war favored falling back to Rolla in view of the overwhelming numbers of enemy troops facing them, and Lyon agreed. But the impetuous one-armed General Sweeney argued for a battle before retreating, and Lyon changed his mind. Lyon then announced that he would attack the Confederates at daylight on August 10, hoping that a surprise attack would negate the Southerners' superior numbers. Colonel Franz Sigel persuaded Lyon to allow him to take his brigade on a flanking march around the enemy's rear in an independent attack on the south end of the Confederate encampment. Lyon agreed to this plan for a simultaneous attack on both ends of the camp.

About 6 p.m. on August 9, while Sigel's column prepared to march toward the Confederate right and rear, Lyon's column moved out westward along the Little York Road to a point opposite the north end of the rebel camp, where Lyon cut south over the prairie. About 1 a.m., when the Union advance guard approached within sight of the enemy campfires, Lyon ordered the column to halt and rest until daybreak. By now the main body of the column was about 3½ miles northeast of the unsuspecting Confederates. While the men were resting, Lyon's scouts penetrated to within a short distance of the enemy camps and discovered that the Southern pickets had been withdrawn.

ORGANIZATION OF THE ARMIES

Sigel's Second Brigade also was on the march, moving southwesterly down the Yonkermill and Delaware Roads. Sigel's force consisted of the 3rd and 5th Missouri Infantry Regiments and six pieces of artillery of the 1st Battery of Backoff's Missouri Light Artillery Battalion. Lyon also had ordered two companies of regular cavalry to accompany Sigel: Company I, 1st U.S. Cavalry, commanded by Captain E.A. Carr and Company C, 2nd U.S. Dragoons, under Lt. C.E. Farrand. Sigel's total column numbered about 1,200

Lyon had left behind in Springfield nearly 1,200 Christian and Greene County Home Guards to garrison the city against a surprise Confederate cavalry attack, and with orders to have the wagons and bank deposits loaded for an orderly evacuation if the rebels were not defeated.

Lyon's column was made up of three brigades: the First Brigade commanded by Major S.D. Sturgis, the Third by Lt. Col. G.L. Andrews, and the Fourth by Col. G.W. Deitzler. It consisted of the 1st and 2nd Kansas Infantry Regiments, 1st Iowa Infantry, 1st Missouri Infantry Regiment, 2nd Missouri Infantry Battalion, two U.S. Regular Battalions under Captains J.B. Plummer and Frederick Steele, Co. D 1st U.S. Cavalry and Co. I, 2nd Kansas Infantry (Mounted). Lyon's artillery consisted of Co. F, 2nd U.S. Artillery (6 guns) under Captain James Totten and Du Bois' Battery (4 guns) under Lt. John Du Bois. This force totaled 4,200.

Brigadier Ben McCulloch's Southern army was composed of his own Confederate brigade of Louisiana, Arkansas and Texas infantry and cavalry, totaling 2,720, along with Brigadier N.B. Pearce's Arkansas brigade of infantry and cavalry, together with Woodruff's Artillery Battery (4 guns) and Reid's Artillery Battery (4 guns), totaling 2,234. The Missouri State Guard under Major General Sterling Price was divided into five divisions under Major Generals James Rains, M.M. Parsons, J.B. Clark, W.Y. Slack and James McBride, and Guibor's Artillery Battery (4 guns), totaling 5,171. Thus the total of the Southern army was 10,125, plus about 2,000 unarmed Missouri State Guard following in the rear.

THE BATTLE BEGINS

Lyon's column pressed forward about 1½ miles after the advance guard made contact with the Confederate pickets at dawn. About 5 a.m. the battle began when the Federals drove off the Missourians outposting the ridge to the north of what was to be known soon as "Bloody Hill". As the Missourians retreated south to Bloody Hill, Lyon ordered Plummer and his 1st U.S. Infantry battalion to cross Wilson's Creek and guard the left flank. The 1st Kansas and 1st Missouri composed Lyon's attacking force and charge up Bloody Hill, forcing the Southerners to retreat. The two regiments reached the hill about 6 a.m., with the rest of Lyon's column following close behind. By this time Price and McCulloch, who were breakfasting together, were fully alerted, and Price ordered his divisions up Bloody Hill to meet Lyon's attack.

By 5 a.m., Sigel had his artillery battery in position on a plateau to shell the Southerner's cavalry camp, located in Sharp's cornfield at the south end of the rebel encampment. The 3rd and 5th Missouri regiments also were poised awaiting Lyon's signal to attack. When Sigel heard the musket fire on Bloody Hill he ordered his battery to open fire and began his advance, sweeping through the cavalry camp after the Southern cavalrymen had fled from his artillery bombardment. By 7 a.m., Sigel's brigade had crossed Wilson's Creek and Terrell Creek which flowed into it, and his troops were deployed in Sharp's cornfield in preparation to receive a cavalry attack. His artillery from this second position continued to shell the Southern cavalrymen until about 7:30, when the troopers fled.

Meanwhile on Bloody Hill, shortly after the battle opened, exchanges of artillery fire took place between Totten's battery and Woodruff's Pulaski Arkansas battery located east of Wilson's Creek. Early in the engagement Lyon ordered Captain Plummer and his U.S. Infantry battallion to cross the creek and guard the left flank. By 7 a.m. Plummer became embroiled in a sharp fight in Ray's cornfield with the 3rd Louisiana and the 2nd Arkansas Mounted Rifles under Colonel James McIntosh. Plummer's small force was soon forced to retreat back across Wilson's Creek. Du Bois' Federal battery on Bloody Hill turned its guns on Plummer's pursuers and compelled the Confederates to retreat. The 3rd Louisiana retreated to the southeast, regrouped, and marched down the Wire Road to join the attack force McCulloch had organized to assault Sigel.

SIGEL'S COLUMN DEFEATED

By 8:30, Sigel had established his third and final position near the Sharp house, blocking the Wire Road. As Sigel waited for Lyon to drive the Southerners back upon him, McCulloch moved down the road toward Sigel's position. Sigel's men saw the gray-clad 3rd Louisiana in the vanguard and held their fire, mistakenly assuming that it was the friendly 1st Iowa from Lyon's column who were also in gray uniforms. The 3rd Louisiana, along with the 4th and 5th Missouri, supported by the fire of Bledsoe's Ft. Smith artillery battery, charged Sigel's position. Sigel's surprised men ran off in a panic in several directions, losing five of their six artillery pieces in the process. The threat to the rear of Price's troops on Bloody Hill ended with the rout of Sigel.

LYON KILLED ON BLOODY HILL

Back on Bloody Hill there were charges and countercharges during the early morning hours between Lyon's Federals and Price's Missourians. Lulls and sporadic firing followed each attack. About 9 a.m., Price launched a massive attack all along Lyon's front. The Federals were hard pressed and Lyon was slightly wounded twice while rallying his troops. As some of his units retired to regroup, Lyon ordered the 1st Iowa and the 2nd Kansas to attack, and led the leaderless 1st Iowa into the battle. At this point, about 9:30 a.m., Lyon was killed by a bullet through the heart, although the Iowa and Kansas troops continued to press the assault relentlessly against Price's line which backed down the hill to regroup.

The only cavalry charge of the battle came about 10 a.m., when Colonel Elkanah Greer's 3rd Texas Cavalry launched an attack against the Union right and rear. The cavalry attack was easily dispersed by musket volleys from several companies of the 2nd Kansas in reserve in the rear and by artillery fire from Totten's battery. By this time, Major Samuel Sturgis was informed of Lyon's death and assumed command of the Union forces, all the senior officers having been wounded and out of action.

THE FEDERALS RETREAT TO SPRINGFIELD

While Price reorganized his troops for another attack, General Pearce was ordered to take his 3rd and 5th Arkansas regiments to reinforce Price. With these additional troops, Price launched the most vicious attack of the day against the Union line. However, the Federal line held firm, aided greatly by the accurate fire from Totten's and Du Bois' batteries. About 11 a.m., Price ordered his troops to disengage and fall back. During the lull that followed, and with their ammunition almost exhausted, Major Sturgis ordered the Federal forces to slowly retreat back to Springfield. By 11:30 a.m., the Federals had begun an orderly retreat, covered by a rear guard and artillery. Price directed another attack, but as the Southerners advanced over the abandoned Bloody Hill they saw the tail of the retreating Union column disappearing over the next ridge to the north. There was no Confederate pursuit and the bitterly contested battle was over. However, some Southern cavalry had pursued Sigel's scattered troops and returned with a number of prisoners.

HEAVY CASUALTIES IN A SIGNIFICANT BATTLE

The Battle of Wilson's Creek, or Oak Hills as the Confederates called it, was the first important battle after Bull Run and there was no wholesale running away here. The battle proved that green, volunteer troops could fight bravely and effectively in a cause they deeply believed in. The casualties in relation to the numbers engaged and the time frame (about five hours), were extremely high. The Federals had 1,317 casualties out of 5,400 engaged. Of these, 258 were killed, 873 wounded, and 186 missing or captured. The Confederates reported 1,230 casualties (279 dead and 951 wounded) out of more than 10,200 engaged. The Federals lost 24 percent of their personnel engaged, while the Southerners lost 12 percent. 25 percent of the combatants on Bloody Hill were casualties.

Some historians believe that the battle, although a Union defeat, saved Missouri for the Union, because the victorious Confederates were too battered and disorganized to mount an offensive in Missouri before Federal reinforcements could be rushed to the state. Certainly Wilson's Creek, along with Pea Ridge, is considered to have been one of the two most important battles fought west of the Mississippi River.

THE RETREAT TO ROLLA

The defeated Federals, now commanded temporarily by Sigel, began an orderly withdrawal the next afternoon toward Rolla, accompanied by throngs of Union civilian refugees. The Confederates entered Springfield after its evacuation by the Federals, but made no attempt at pursuit. After remaining in Springfield less than a month, Generals McCulloch and Pearce returned with their troops to Arkansas. Meanwhile Price marched his Missouri State Guard north to begin on September 12 a nine-day siege of the 3,000-man Union Garrison at Lexington, which surrendered September 20.

FREMONT RELIEVED OF COMMAND

After the death of Lyon, the first Civil War general to fall, and Price's victory at Lexington, much criticism was heaped upon General Fremont. He was forced to take to the field with his personal bodyguard of about 200 under Major Zagonyi, and 20,000 regular Union troops. In an effort to keep Price and the Confederates from coming back to Springfield, Fremont marched from Jefferson City to Springfield. The romantic and impatient Major Zagonyi received permission to plunge on ahead with his guardsmen, and in a much publicized charge dashed into Springfield on October 25, scattering the small Confederate garrison. Fremont had hardly settled his large army in Springfield when his critics prevailed and he was relieved of his command. He was replaced by General Samuel Curtis, who would go on to fame and victory over a superior Confederate army at Pea Ridge, Arkansas, in early March, 1862.

SECESSIONIST HOPES FADE

After the victory at Lexington, secessionist hopes reached their peak in Missouri, but soon faded. Price withdrew to the southwest corner of the state and the deposed Governor Jackson called part of his deposed pro-Southern legislature together at Neosho. There, at the end of October, 1861, the secessionists passed an act delivering Missouri into the Confederacy, and the Confederate government admitted Missouri as its 12th member. But this was meaningless. It was a government in exile, with no troops and no money. The Missouri Confederate government in reality consisted of the Governor and his staff, and was harried from place to place in Arkansas, ending the war in Marshall, Texas. Although tortured by guerrilla warfare and periodic Confederate raids, Missouri after 1861 was no longer in danger of being lost to the Union.

SUGGESTED READING:

Bearss, Edwin C. *The Battle of Wilson's Creek.* (1975).

Holcombe and Adams. *An Account of the Battle of Wilson's Creek or Oak Hills.* (Centennial Edition, August 10, 1961.)

Bibliography

BATTLE OF WILSON'S CREEK, AUGUST 10, 1861

The following is a list of books, articles, and other material about the Battle of Wilson's Creek, all of which are available at the Main Building, Springfield-Greene County Library.

The Battle of Wilson's Creek. August 10, 1961. Souvenir Edition. N.A. Wilson's Creek Centennial, 1961. A short narrative with detailed maps.

Bearss, Edwin C. *The Battle of Wilson's Creek.* Bozeman, Montana: George Washington Carver Birthplace District Assn., 1975. Much of the book is based upon military records.

Bearss, Edwin C. *The Ray House. Wilson's Creek Battlefield National Park.* Washington D.C.: National Park Service, 1968. What it's like to have a battle in your front yard.

Bevier, R.S. *History of the First and Second Missouri Confederate Brigades, 1861-1865.* St. Louis: Bryan, Brand & Company, 1879. A rebel's report on the battle.

Browne, Junius H. *Four years in Sucessia, Adventures Within and Beyond the Union Lines.* St. Louis: O.D. Case & Company, 1865. A news reporter reports on the aftermath of the battle.

Buel, Clarence, ed. *Battles and Leaders of the Civil War, Vol. 1.* New York: Century, 1887. Includes a Union and Confederate account.

Cheever, L.O. "One Hundred Days to Glory," *The Palimpsest,* November, 1972. The story of the First Iowa Volunteer Infantry and their actions at Wilson's Creek.

Dark, Harris and Phyllis. *Springfield of the Ozarks; an Illustrated History.* Woodland Hills, California: Windsor, 1981. Provides a very readable account of events.

Holcombe, Return I. and Adams. *An Account of the Battle of Wilson's Creek, or Oak Hills.* Springfield: Dow & Adams, Publishers, 1883. Reprint by the Springfield Public Library, 1961. Much of what has been written is based on this account of events.

Hulsten, John. "West Point and Wilson's Creek." *Quarterly Journal of Studies on Civil War History.* December, 1955. Of West Point graduates, four were Confederate and fourteen were Union officers.

Kemp, Hardy. *About Nathaniel Lyon Brigadier General United States Army Volunteers and Wilson's Creek.* Hardy Kemp, 1978. The most celebrated casualty of Wilson's Creek.

Kingman, W.A. *Battle of Wilson's Creek, History and Geography.* N.D. Looseleaf compilation of maps and articles.

Marshall, W.J. "Extracts Medical and Surgical of the Battle of Wilson's Creek." *Greene County Medical Society Bulletin.* May, June, and July, 1957. Describes what medical care was like at the battle.

Meador, I.E. *Souvenir Program of Battle of Wilson Creek, Seventy-Seventh Anniversary, August 10-11, 1938.* Springfield: Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, 1938. A good report on what happened.

Mitchell, Benjamin. "Confederate Participant Describes the Battle of Wilson Creek." *Ozarks Mountaineer.* February, 1959. An eyewitness account.

Mudd, Joseph A. "What I Saw at Wilson's Creek." *Missouri Historical Review.* January, 1913. The narrator was in the thick of battle.

Snead, Thomas. *The Fight for Missouri.* New York: Scribner's, 1838. Covers the war in Missouri from the election of Lincoln to the death of Lyon.

Stevens, Walter. *Missouri, the Center State, 1821-1915.* Chicago: S.J. Clarke, 1915. A brief account of the events surrounding the battle.

Upton, Lucille Morris. *Battle of Wilson's Creek.* Springfield: Wilson's Creek Battlefield Foundation, 1950. Originally a series of articles in the Springfield News and Leader.

Ware, E.F. *The Lyon Campaign in Missouri.* Topeka: Crane, 1907. A history of the First Iowa Infantry written by an ordinary soldier.

Webb, W.L. *Battles and Biographies of Missourians.* Kansas City: Hudson Kimberly, 1900. Presents a strong Confederate point of view.

Witmer, Edward A. *The Battle of Bonnie Wilson.* Mission, Kansas: Dudley Atkins III, 1941. A youngster asks relatives about what it was like at the battle.

Woodruff, W.E. *With the Light Guns in '61-'65. Reminiscences of Eleven Arkansas, Missouri, and Texas Light Batteries in the Civil War.* Little Rock, Arkansas: Central Printing Co., 1903. A personal account by a veteran of the Confederate light artillery.

Woodward, Ashbel. *Life of General Nathaniel Lyon.* Hartford: Case, Lockwood & Co., 1862. Written shortly after the death of Lyon with information provided by those who knew him.

Prepared By Michael Glenn, Librarian
Shepard Room, Springfield-Greene County Library July, 1983

Bibliography

GREENE COUNTY IN THE BEGINNING

These titles were selected as being representative of the social and political climate of Greene County at the time of initial settlement as well as during the early development. Some are entirely devoted to Greene County while others reflect the Ozarks region in general. All of the materials are available at the Main Building, Springfield-Greene County Library.

Atherton, Lewis E. "Missouri's Society and Economy in 1821." *Missouri Historical Review*, July, 1971. Reviews characteristics of early settlements.

Brink, McDonough & Co. *An Illustrated Atlas of Greene County, MO.* Brink, McDonough & Co. 1876. Includes a good account of the early development of the area.

Britton, Wiley. *Pioneer Life in Southwest Missouri.* Kansas City: Smith-Grieves, 1929. Concerns Ozark life before the Civil War.

Brown, Miriam. *The Story of Springfield.* Springfield Public Schools, 1940. A treatment directed toward young children.

Census Bureau. *U.S. Census of Population, 1830 — State of Missouri.* Provides the name of head of household and age characteristics of families.

Census Bureau. *U.S. Census of Population, 1840 — State of Missouri.* Provides the name of head of household and age characteristics of families.

Dark, Harris and Phyllis. *Springfield of the Ozarks; an Illustrated History.* Woodland Hills, California: Windsor, 1981. Touches briefly on many aspects of the early days.

Fairbanks, Jonathan, and Tuck, Clyde. *Past and Present of Greene County, Missouri.* Indianapolis: A.W. Bowen & Co., 1915. A complete history of the county with biographies of prominent citizens.

Farmer, Frank. *Willard: From Prairie to Present.* Willard Bicentennial Heritage Committee, 1976.

Holcombe, Return I. *History of Greene County, Missouri.* St. Louis: Western Historical Company, 1883. The most comprehensive single work about the county.

Hubble, Martin J., ed. *Personal Reminiscences and Fragments of the Early History of Springfield and Greene County, Missouri.* Springfield: Museum of the Ozarks, 1979.

Hulston, John C. "Hulston on History: Campbell Cabin Served as First County Courthouse." *Springfield Magazine*, May, 1980. A brief account of the establishment of the courthouse.

Ingenthron, Elmo. *Indians of the Ozark Plateau.* Point Lookout: School of the Ozarks Press, 1970. Includes settlers' relations with the native population during the 1830's.

Morrow, Lynn. "Trader William Gilliss and Delaware Migration in Southern Missouri." *Missouri Historical Review*, January, 1981.

Ozarks Genealogical Society. *1833-1850: Early Land Records of Present Day Greene County.* Ozarks Genealogical Society, 1982. Includes names, dates, and legal description of property.

Randolph, Vance. *The Ozarks, an American Survival of Primitive Society.* New York: Vangard, 1931. One hundred years later, many things were similar.

Rayburn, Otto. *Ozark Country.* New York: Duell, 1941. Although written in 1941, the book has many retrospective points.

Sauer, Carl O. *The Geography of the Ozark Highland of Missouri.* Chicago: University of Chicago, 1920. See chapters about settlement of the Springfield plain and the Ozark center.

Schmitt, Alan and Williams, Elizabeth. *City of Seven Hills: A Pictorial History of Ash Grove, Missouri.* Privately published, 1982.

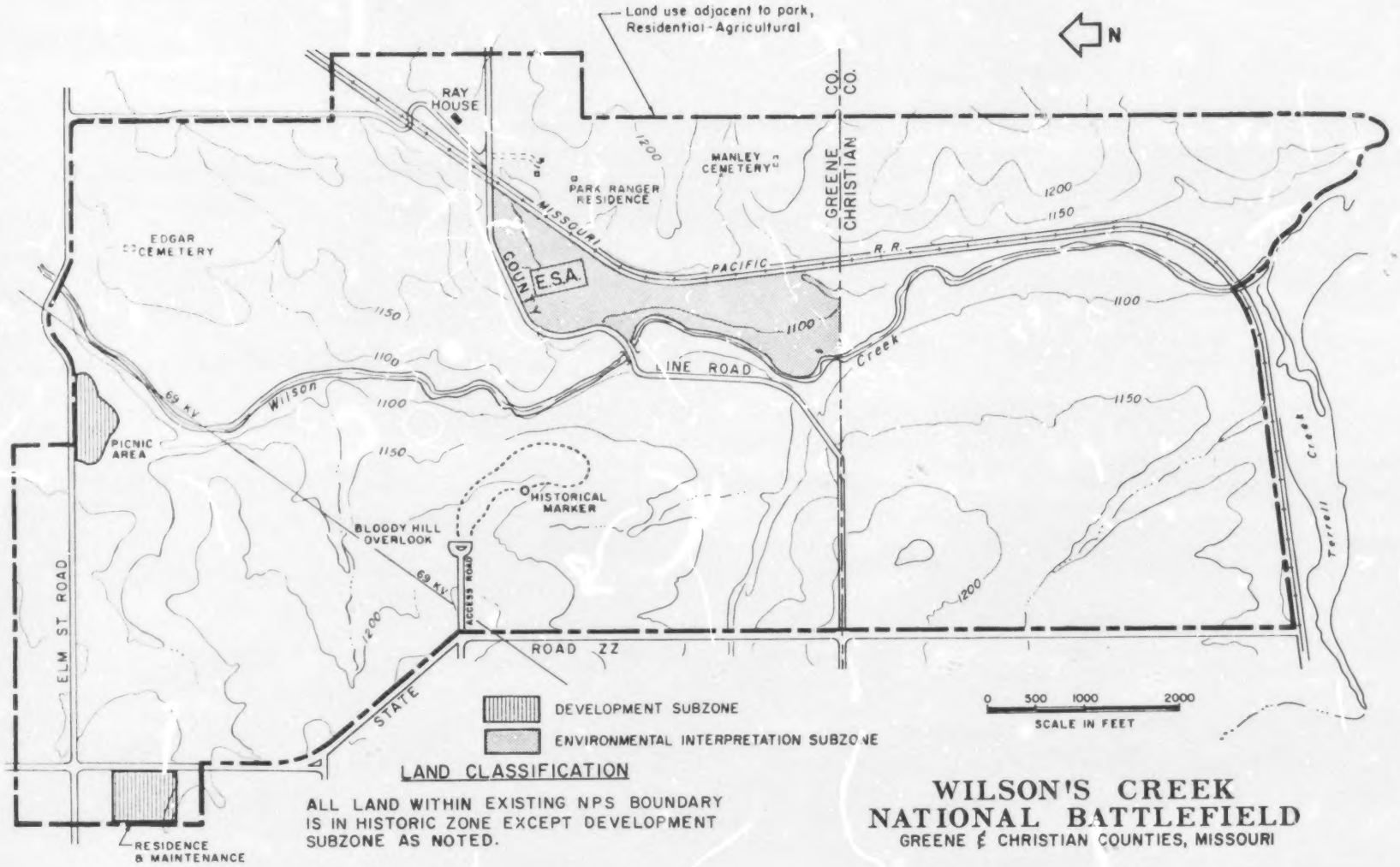
Schoolcraft, Henry R. *Schoolcraft in the Ozarks.* Van Buren, AR: Press-Argus, 1955. This shows the Ozarks at the very beginning of white settlement.

Shepard, Edward M. "Early Springfield." *Missouri Historical Review*, October, 1925. A very good account.

Upton, Lucile Morris. "How Springfield was Named." *Springfield Magazine*, June, 1980. Sets the record straight.

Wetmore, Alphonso. *Gazeteer of the State of Missouri.* New York: Mid-America Frontier, 1975. Reprint of a work done in 1837 with an informative section on the Greene County area.

Prepared By Michael Glenn, Librarian
Shepard Room, Springfield-Greene County Library July, 1983



LAND CLASSIFICATION

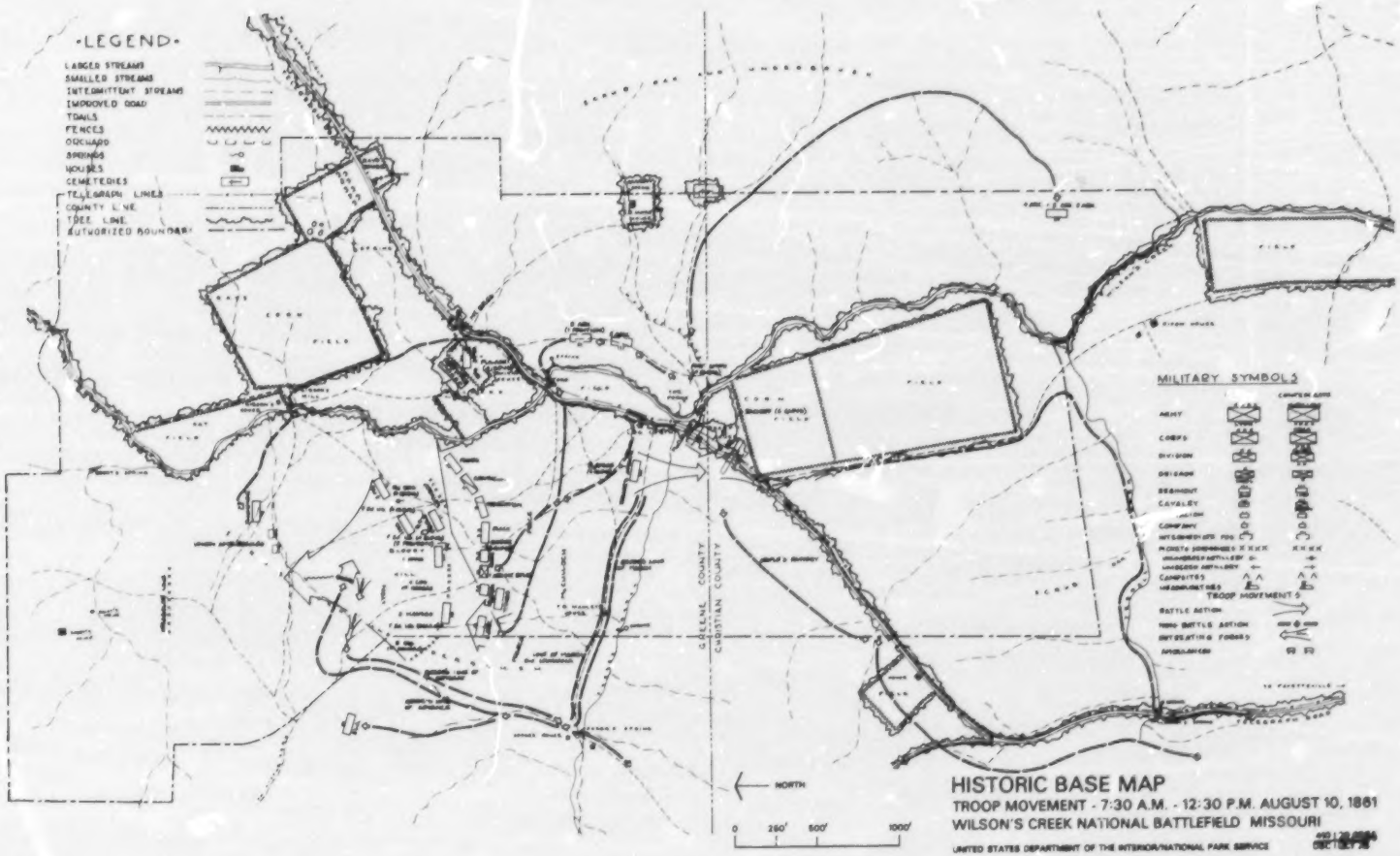
ALL LAND WITHIN EXISTING NPS BOUNDARY IS IN HISTORIC ZONE EXCEPT DEVELOPMENT SUBZONE AS NOTED.

WILSON'S CREEK NATIONAL BATTLEFIELD

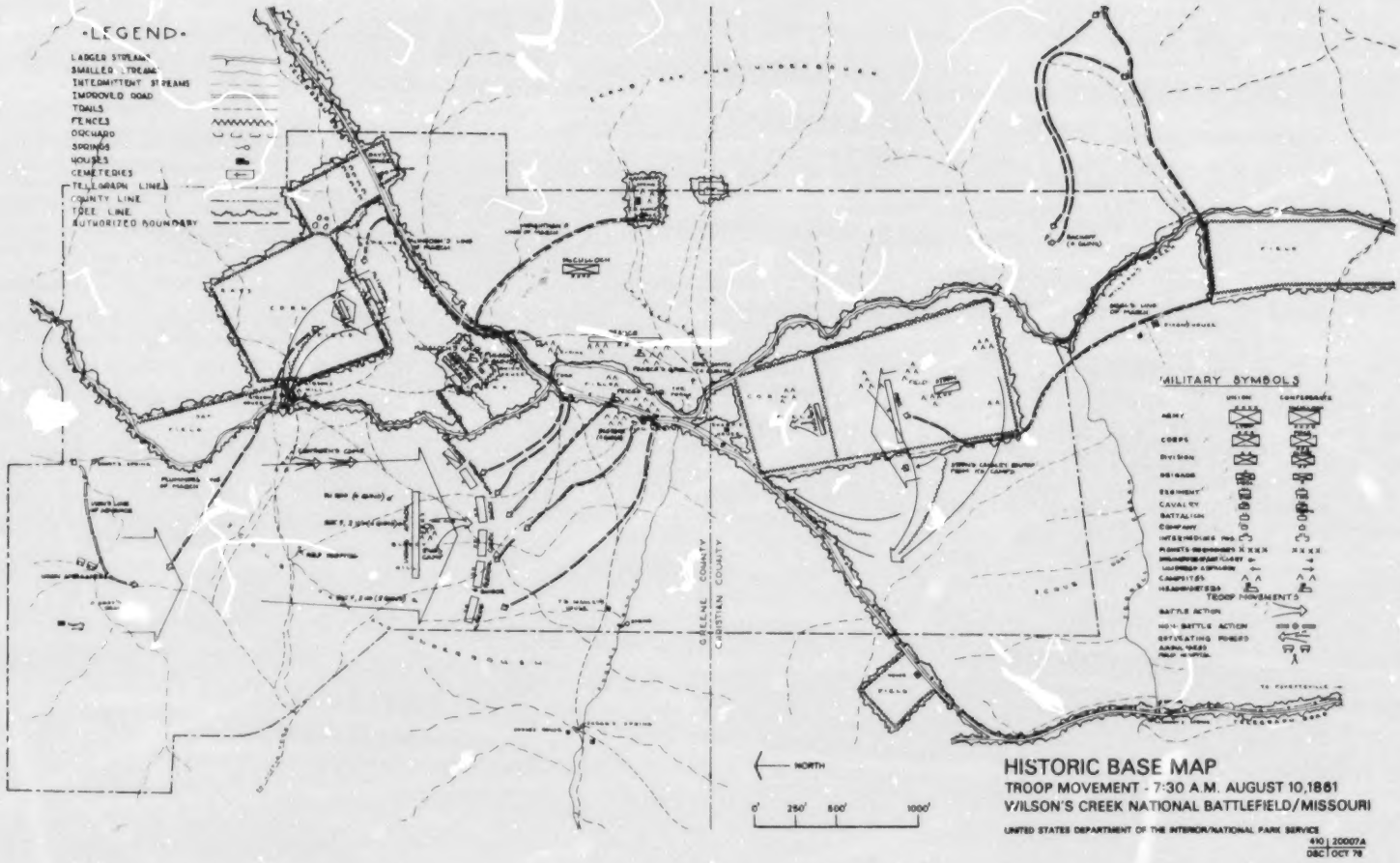
GREENE & CHRISTIAN COUNTIES, MISSOURI

DWG. NO. 410 / 5,004
MRO 5-26-76 ELJ

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

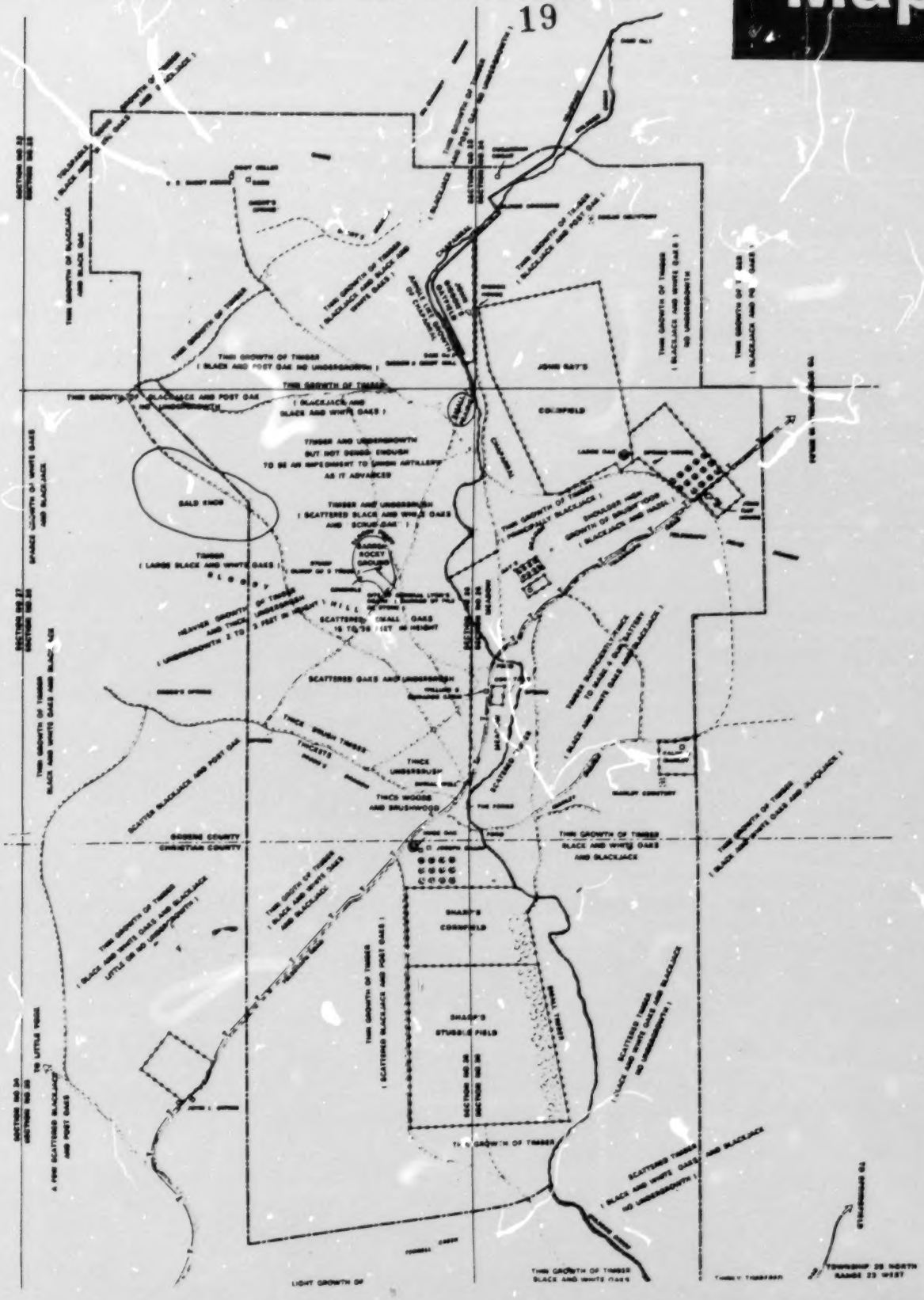


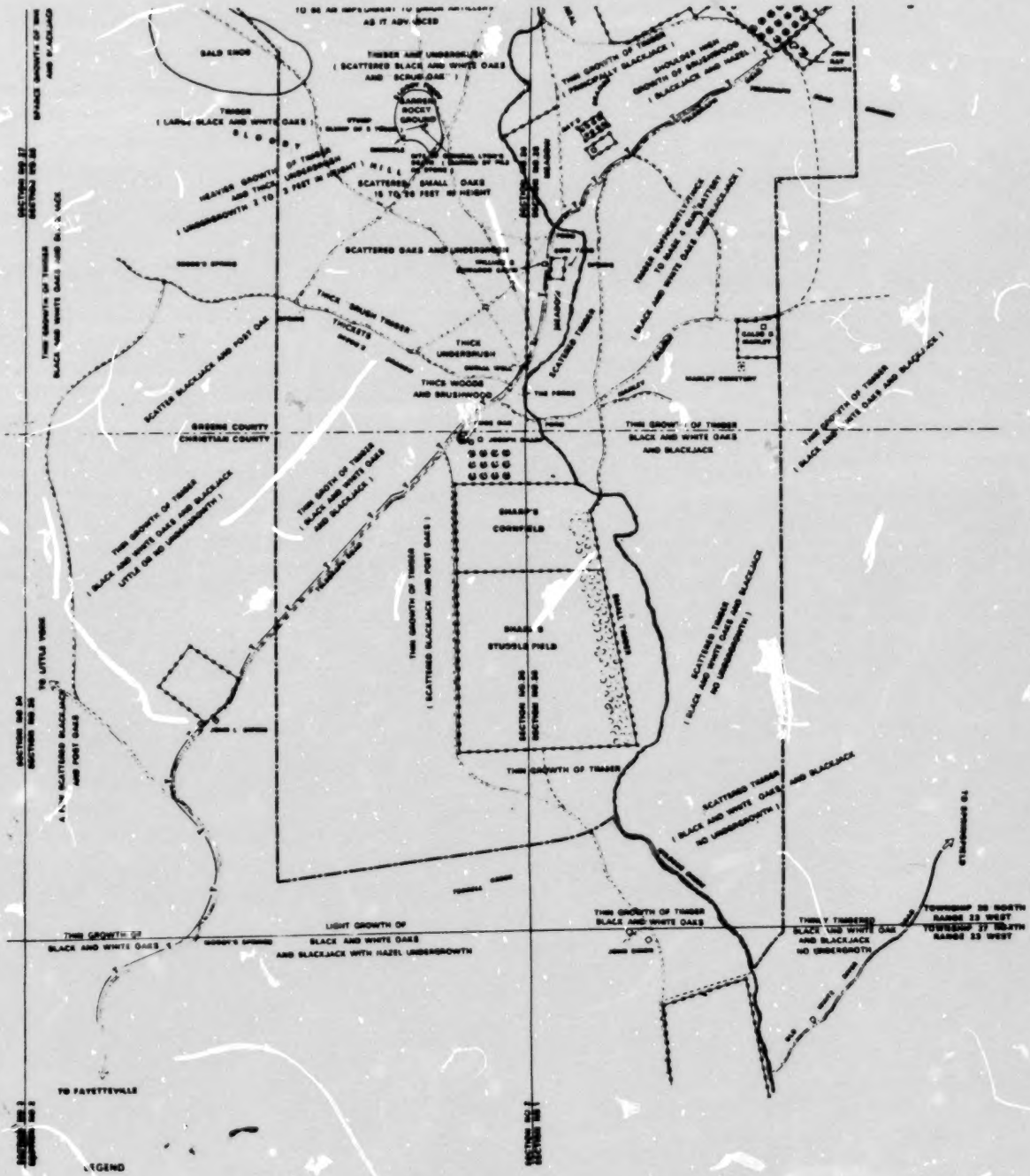
BEST COPY AVAILABLE



BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Maps




BALD KNOB
TIMBER AND UNDERBRUSH (SCATTERED BLACK AND WHITE OAKS AND SCRUB OAK)
LARGE ROCKY GROUND
TIMBER (LARGE BLACK AND WHITE OAKS)
SCATTERED SMALL OAKS 15 TO 20 FEET IN HEIGHT
SCATTERED OAKS AND UNDERBRUSH
THICK BRUSH TIMBER
THICK UNDERBRUSH
THICK WOODS AND BRUSHWOOD
THE FENCE
SCATTER BLACKJACK AND POST OAK
GREENE COUNTY
CHRISTIAN COUNTY
THIN GROWTH OF TIMBER (BLACK AND WHITE OAKS AND BLACKJACK)
THIN GROWTH OF TIMBER (BLACK AND WHITE OAKS AND BLACKJACK LITTLE OR NO UNDERGROWTH)
THIN GROWTH OF TIMBER (BLACK AND WHITE OAKS AND BLACKJACK)
THIN GROWTH OF TIMBER (SCATTERED BLACKJACK AND POST OAKS)
SHARP'S CORNFIELD
SHARP'S STUBBLE FIELD
SMALL TIMBER
SECTION NO 34
SECTION NO 35
TO LITTLE YORK
SCATTERED BLACKJACK AND POST OAKS
THIN GROWTH OF TIMBER
SCATTERED TIMBER (BLACK AND WHITE OAKS NO UNDERGROWTH)
SCATTERED TIMBER AND BLACKJACK
THIN GROWTH OF TIMBER BLACK AND WHITE OAKS AND BLACKJACK
THIN GROWTH OF TIMBER (BLACK AND WHITE OAKS AND BLACKJACK)
THIN GROWTH OF TIMBER BLACK AND WHITE OAKS
LIGHT GROWTH OF BLACK AND WHITE OAKS AND BLACKJACK WITH HAZEL UNDERGROWTH
THIN GROWTH OF TIMBER BLACK AND WHITE OAKS
THIN TIMBERED BLACK AND WHITE OAK AND BLACKJACK NO UNDERGROWTH
TOWNSHIP 28 NORTH RANGE 23 WEST
TOWNSHIP 27 SOUTH RANGE 23 WEST
TO FAYETTEVILLE
LEGEND
STATE BOUNDARY
COUNTY LINE
SECTION LINE
MAJOR STREAM
LESSER STREAM
INTERMITTENT STREAM
SPRING
WELL
IMPROVED ROAD
FARM ROAD AND TRAIL
TRAIL
TELEGRAPH LINE
CEMETERY
MILL
HEADING
DAM
RAIL FENCE
ORCHARD
SPONGE TREE PERSIMMON

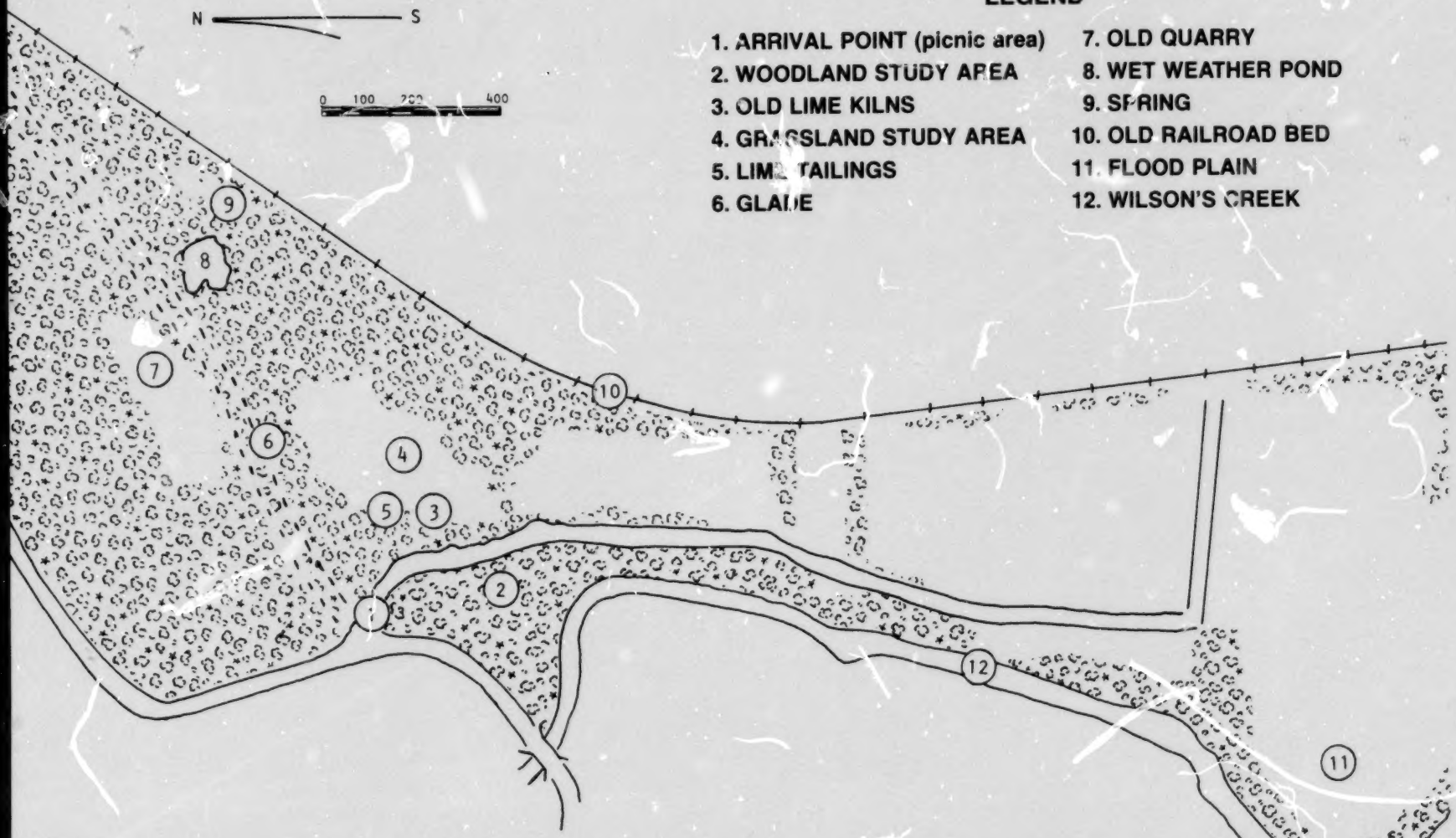
HISTORICAL BASE AND GROUND COVER MAP

WILSON'S CREEK NATIONAL BATTLEFIELD

GREENE AND CHRISTIAN COUNTIES / MISSOURI

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Wilson's Creek National Park
Environmental Studies Area



ENVIRONMENTAL AREA: LEGEND EXPLANATION

1. Arrival Point
   There are parking spaces across the road from the picnic area.
2. Woodland Study Area
   The area is most easily reached by walking up the hill and following the old road to the right. This area offers the most typical woodland habitat of any in the study area.
3. Old Lime Kilns
   The easiest route is to return to the junction of the path and the old road. Turn right and walk up the hill and you will see a patch of trees on your right. The kilns are in this thicket. The kilns are filled with soil to offer more safety for curious students.
4. Grassland Study Area
   This area was chosen because it is the most convenient grassland location in the area.
5. Lime Tailings
   The pile of limestone leavings from the kilns are difficult to see because they are covered with vegetation.
6. Glade
   The glade has a northern exposure. It offers thin soil, lichens, prickly pear, typical flora, and exposed limestone.
7. Old Quarry
   The quarry shows how man can destroy an area and how nature tries to reclaim it. There are a few fossils in the limestone bluff.
8. Wet Weather Pond
   The pond is small and disappears during very dry weather.
9. Spring
   The spring trickles from the base of the old railroad bed. The flow is small, but enough to contribute to the volume of the wet weather pond.
10. Old Railroad Bed
    Access to the bed is difficult. However, it offers a prime example of succession.
11. Flood Plain
    Although this area is not close to the other study areas, it is worth the walk. The plain is composed of good soil and contains abundant life.
12. Wilson's Creek
    There is very little variety in the life found in the stream. Due to pollution, it is suggested that students not enter the water.

Map and Legend By Robert J. McLaren
Assistant Professor of Education
Southwest Missouri State University

Illustrations

2nd Missouri
Union Volunteer
Infantry

Missouri State
Guard Infantry
Confederate with
Common Rifle

Publications

Wilson's Creek National Battlefield

		Postage
1. *Birds of North America*, Robbins, Bruin, & Zim (Golden Press, 1968)	$4.95	.50
2. *Trees of North America*, Brockman, G. Frank (Golden Press, 1968)	$4.95	.50
3. *Battle of Wilson's Creek*, Bearss, Edwin C. (Artcraft Printers, 1976)	$3.00	.50
4. *An Account of the Battle of Wilson's Creek*, (Centennial edition, August 10, 1961, reprint of 1883 edition, Springfield Public Library and Greene County Historical Society Holcombe & Adams)	$4.50	.50
5. *The Common Soldier of the CW*, Wiley, Bell I. (CW Times Illustrated)	$1.00	.25
6. *The Guerrilla War*, Castel, Albert (CW Times Illustrated, 1974)	$1.00	.25
7. *Concise Illus. History of CW*, James I Robertson, Jr.	$1.50	.25
8. *Golden Book of the Civil War*, (Adapted from American Heritage Pictorial History — Western Publishing Company, 1976)	$4.95	.50
9. *Medicine of the Civil War* (National Library of Medicine)	$ .25	.25
10. *Coloring Book, Civil War Uniforms*, Peter F. Copeland	$2.00	.35
11. *Borderland Rebellion*, Elmo Ingenthron (Paperback)	$9.95	.50
12. *Borderland Rebellion*, Elmo Ingenthron (Hardcover)	$14.95	.50
13. *Missouri Sketchbook*, Clifton C. Edom (Hardcover)	$8.95	.50
14. *Blue & Gray Cookery* (authentic recipes from Civil War years) Hugh and Judy Gowan	$2.00	.25
15. Postcards (Scene of Battle of Wilson's Creek) (Order 1 to 10 for same postage)	$ .15	.20

FOR MAIL ORDERS — PLEASE COMPLETE FORM BELOW:

Your Name and Address _____

_____

_____

Item No.	Title	Quantity	Price

Make Money Order or Certified Check payable to:

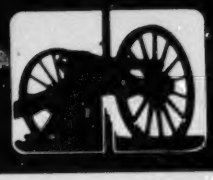
Eastern National Park & Monument Association

Mail Order to: Wilson's Creek National Battlefield
Postal Drawer C
Republic, Missouri 65738

Sub-Total _____

Postage _____

Total Due _____



Wilson's Creek National Battlefield Foundation

1982-1983 OFFICERS

Dr. J. Calvin Holsinger, President
Dr. Duane G. Meyer, Vice President
Carolyn H. Gerdes, Secretary
J. Sam Williams, III, Treasurer
Lynn W. Livingston, Historian

1982-1983 BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE FOUNDATION

Dr. Wayne C. Bartee
Dr. Norman C. Crawford
Ransom A. Ellis, III
Robert C. Glazier
Dr. J. Calvin Holsinger
Dr. Stephen R. Jones
Lynn W. Livingston
Gordon McCann
Charles Sheppard
Joseph H. Straughan, Jr.
Henry B. Warren, Jr.
Helen Murray White
Shirley J. Williams
Wesley J. Curtis
Anne Case Drummond
Carolyn H. Gerdes
Dr. Paul J. Hagerty
John K. Hulston
Cathryn Cox Lipscomb
Dr. Duane G. Meyer
David Plank
Jewell G. Smith
Prof. Leo E. Huff
Dr. Thomas P. Sweeney
J. Sam Williams
Gladys M. Mathews

EX OFFICIO BOARD

James T. O'Toole
Judge H.C. "Mike" Compton
Louis W. Reps, Jr.
Mayor Harry S. Strawn
James S. Graham

HONORARY BOARD OF ADVISORS

Lucile Morris Upton
Ida Phillips Anthony
Leeson Hayes Meador
Ann Fair Dodson
C.W. Johnson
O.K. Armstrong

In 1950 a group of distinguished Southwest Missouri citizens secured a charter for a non-profit corporation, WILSON'S CREEK FOUNDATION, for the purpose of purchasing the 37-acre Bloody Hill Site of the Battle of Wilson's Creek, and to hold title to this land as a nucleus for a proposed National Park. This accomplished (in the Fall of 1951 the land was purchased), the long process of bringing to reality a National Park began.

In 1981 as construction on the new Park Visitor's Center began, then Park Supt., James O'Toole, suggested the need for the FOUNDATION to reactivate its service. The new Supt., David Lane, who came in 1982 likewise encouraged the FOUNDATION to sponsor and strengthen (in cooperation with Park officials) the educational programs of the Battlefield.

This then is the stated function of the WILSON'S CREEK NATIONAL BATTLEFIELD FOUNDATION. As recently as 1982, it once again outlined its purpose as being for "the purpose of encouraging the full educational utilization and development of this area's cultural resource — the Wilson's Creek Park."

No venture similar to the Wilson's Creek National Battlefield Foundation can succeed in its purposes unless it has broad community support. Wouldn't you like to join as a member of this FOUNDATION and thereby help it reach its educational goals?

I would like to join as a member of the WILSON'S CREEK NATIONAL BATTLEFIELD FOUNDATION and help develop the resources of the Park as an educational and cultural asset. I wish to become a _____ LIFE ($100) _____ REGULAR ($10) _____ FAMILY ($25) _____ STUDENT ($2) Member.

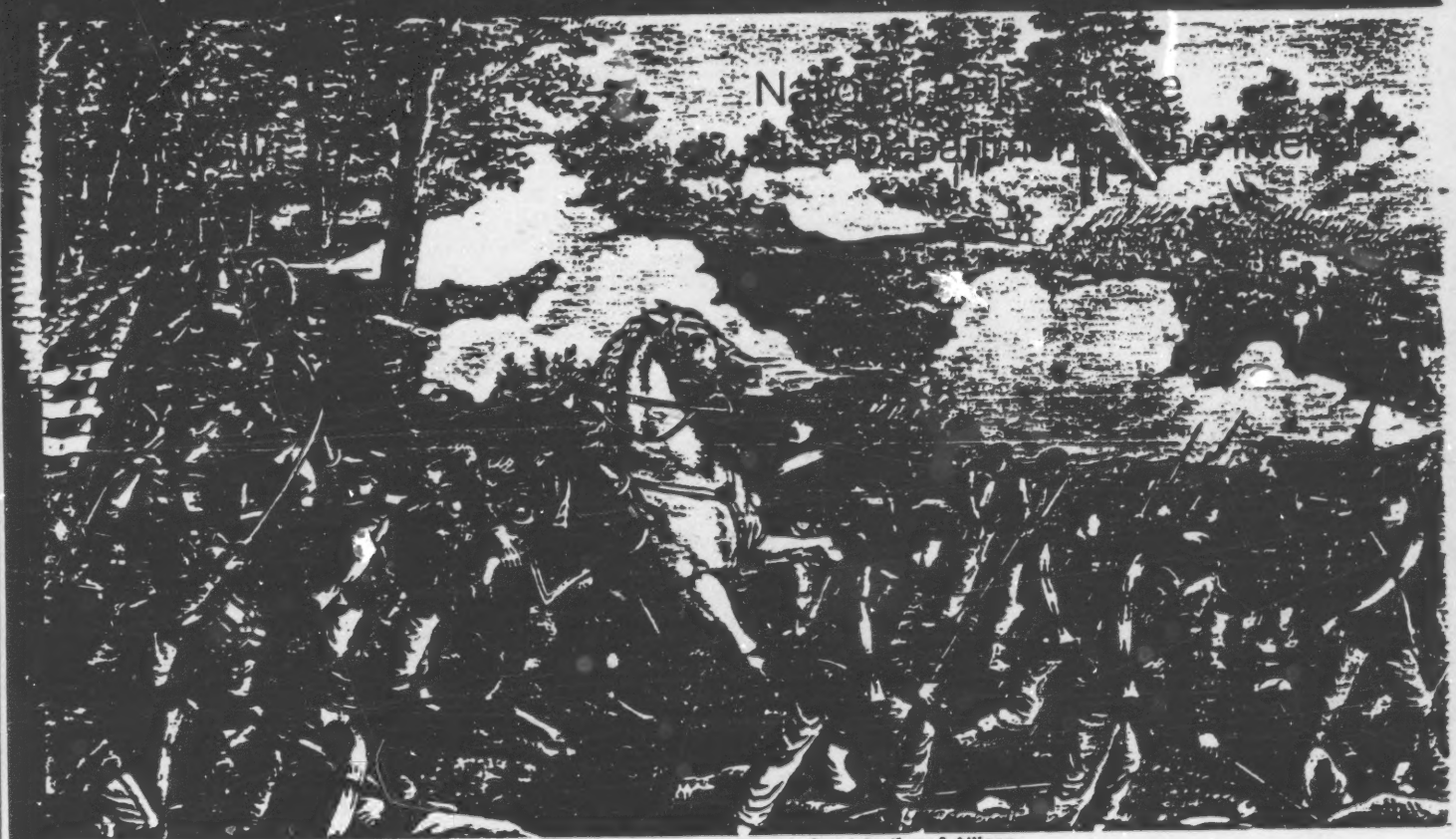
MAIL CHECK: J. Sam Williams
Commerce Bank Branch
1445 E. Battlefield at Fremont
Springfield, MO 65804

Such gifts are tax deductible.

PRINT NAME _____

PRINT ADDRESS _____ **ZIP** _____

Wilson's Creek



The death of General Lyon, from a chromolithograph of the Battle of Wilson's Creek by Kurz & Allison.

BEST COPY

The Battle of Wilson's Creek (called Oak Hills by the Confederates) was fought 16 kilometers (10 miles) southwest of Springfield, Mo., on August 10, 1861. Named for the stream that crosses the area where the battle took place, it was a bitter struggle between Union and Confederate forces for control of Missouri in the first year of the Civil War.

Border State Politics When the Civil War began in 1861, Missouri's allegiance was of vital concern to the Federal Government. The State's strategic position on the Missouri and Mississippi Rivers and its abundant manpower and natural resources made it imperative that she remain loyal to the Union. Most Missourians desired neutrality, but many including the governor, Claiborne F. Jackson, held strong Southern sympathies and planned to cooperate with the Confederacy in its bid for independence.

When President Lincoln called for troops to put down the rebellion, Missouri was asked to supply four regiments. Governor Jackson refused the request and ordered units of the State Guard to muster at Camp Jackson outside St. Louis and prepare to seize the huge stockpile of arms at the U.S. arsenal in that city. They had not, however, counted on the resourcefulness of the arsenal's commander, Capt. Nathaniel Lyon.

Learning of the governor's intentions, Lyon had most of the weapons moved to Illinois. On May 10, he marched 7,000 men out to Camp Jackson and forced its surrender. In June, after a futile meeting with Jackson to resolve their differences, Lyon (now a brigadier general) led an army up the Missouri River and captured the State Capitol at Jefferson City. After an unsuccessful stand at Boonville a few miles upstream, the governor, with elements of the State Guard, retreated to southwest Missouri.

Why Wilson's Creek? After installing a pro-Union State government and picking up reinforcements, Lyon moved toward southwest Missouri. By July 13, 1861, he was encamped at Springfield with about 6,000 soldiers, consisting of the 1st, 2d, 3rd, and 5th Missouri Infantry, the 1st Iowa Infantry, the 1st and 2d Kansas Infantry, several companies of regular Army troops, and three batteries of artillery. General Lyon spent the rest of the month drilling these units and procuring supplies.

Meanwhile, 120 kilometers (75 miles) southwest of Springfield, Maj. Gen. Sterling Price, commanding the Missouri State Guard, had been busy drilling the 5,000 soldiers in his charge. By the end of July, when troops under Gens. Ben McCulloch and N. Bart Pearce rendezvoused with Price, the total Confederate force exceeded 12,000 men. On July 31, after formulating plans to capture Lyons' army and regain control of the State, Price, McCulloch, and Pearce marched northeast to attack the Federals. Lyon, hoping to surprise the Confederates, marched from Springfield on August 1. The next day the Union troops mauled the Southern vanguard at Dug Springs. Lyon, discovering that he was outnumbered, ordered a withdrawal to Springfield. The Confederates followed and by August 6 were encamped in the fields near and on the bluffs overlooking Wilson's Creek.

The Battle Despite inferior numbers, Lyon decided to attack the Confederate encampments. Leaving about 1,000 men behind to guard his supplies, the Federal commander led 5,400 soldiers out of Springfield on the night of August 9. Lyon's plan called for 1,200 men under Col. Franz Sigel to swing wide to the south, flanking the Confederate right, while the main body of troops struck from the north. Success hinged on the element of surprise.

About midmorning on the day of the battle, as he was leading a charge of the 2d Kansas Infantry against Col. Richard Weightman's Missourians, Gen. Nathaniel Lyon was struck by a musket ball that passed through his chest. Slowly dismounting, the mortally wounded Lyon collapsed into the arms of orderly Pvt. Ed Lehmann. A granite marker (left), placed there in 1928 by the University Club of Springfield, Mo., marks the approximate spot where Lyon was killed, commemorating the death of one of the Union's outstanding officers.

Ironically, the Confederate leaders had also planned a surprise attack on the Federals, but rain on the night of the 9th caused McCulloch (who was now in overall command) to cancel the operation. On the morning of the 10th, Lyon's attack caught the Southerners off guard, driving them back. Forging rapidly ahead, the Federals overran several Confederate camps and occupied the crest of a ridge subsequently called "Bloody Hill." There the Pulaski Arkansas Battery opened fire, checking the advance. This gave Price's infantry time to form a battleline on the hill's south slope.

For more than 5 hours the battle raged on Bloody Hill. Fighting was often at close quarters, and the tide turned with each charge and countercharge. Sigel's flanking maneuver, initially successful, lost momentum in the fields of the Sharp farm as some soldiers stopped to plunder and came under Confederate artillery fire. Sigel's attack collapsed altogether when McCulloch's men counterattacked. Defeated, Sigel and his troops fled, abandoning five cannon.

About 9:30 a.m., General Lyon, who had been wounded twice already, was killed while leading a countercharge. Maj. Samuel Sturgis assumed command of the Federal forces and, with ammunition nearly exhausted, ordered a withdrawal to Springfield. The Battle of Wilson's Creek was over. Losses were heavy and about equal on both sides—1,317 for the Federals, 1,222 for the Confederates. The Southerners, though victorious on the field, were not able to pursue the Northerners. Lyon lost the battle and his life, but he achieved his goal: Missouri remained under Union control.

BEST COPY

The Men Who Commanded the Armies

Confederate Leaders

Benjamin McCulloch commanded the Confederate forces at Wilson's Creek. Though possessing no formal military training, he was a veteran Indian fighter, participated in the Texas War of Independence, and commanded a company of Texas Rangers in the Mexican War. After serving as sheriff of Sacramento during the California gold rush, he was appointed U.S. marshal for the eastern district of Texas. McCulloch rose from a colonel of State troops in February 1861 to a brigadier general in the Confederate States Army in May that same year. Seven months after the Confederate victory at Wilson's Creek, he died while leading a division of troops at the Battle of Pea Ridge, Ark., March 7, 1862.

Maj. Gen. Sterling Price commanded the Missouri State Guard at Wilson's Creek. He had served in the Mexican War, the U.S. Congress, and as governor of Missouri. He accepted the command of the State Guard when the war began. At age 51, he was the oldest of the six principal commanders at Wilson's Creek and was well-liked by his troops, who affectionately nicknamed him "Old Pap."

Nicholas Bartlett Pearce graduated from West Point in 1850 and served on the frontier for 8 years before resigning from the Army. When Arkansas seceded in early 1861, its Confederate government commissioned him a brigadier general in charge of volunteers. At the Battle of Wilson's Creek, he commanded all Arkansas State troops.

Union Leaders

Brig. Gen. Nathaniel Lyon, who commanded the Federal forces at Wilson's Creek, was an 1841 graduate of the U.S. Military Academy and a veteran of the Seminole and Mexican Wars. He had also served at various posts on the frontier before being assigned to command the U.S. arsenal in St. Louis in 1861. An ardent Unionist and a strong supporter of Lincoln and the Republican party, Lyon worked closely with Missouri Congressman Francis P. Blair, Jr., to prevent the State from seceding from the Union. His death at Wilson's Creek at the age of 43 made him the first Union general to die in battle during the Civil War.

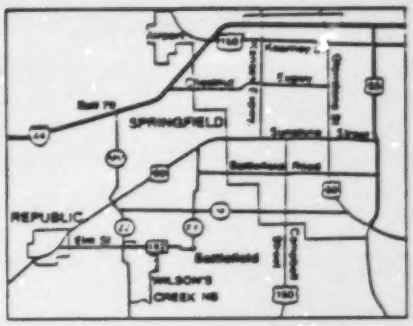
German-born Franz Sigel was director of public schools in St. Louis at the onset of the Civil War. As colonel of the 3rd Missouri Infantry, he took part in the capture of Camp Jackson in May 1861 and fought in the Battle of Carthage two months later. The defeat of his 2d Missouri Brigade at Wilson's Creek helped forge the Southern victory.

Maj. Samuel Sturgis, who assumed command of the Union forces after Lyon's death, was an 1846 graduate of West Point. Like Lyon, he had served in the Mexican War and on the frontier. When the Civil War began, Sturgis was in command of the U.S. Army post at Fort Smith, Ark. Cited for meritorious service at Wilson's Creek and in later battles, he rose to major general by war's end.

Sketch by Henri [illegible], Confederate aide-de-camp, during the Battle of Wilson's Creek

BEST COPY

The Battlefield Tour



The visitor center at Wilson's Creek National Battlefield has been designed with a concern for the future and a respect for the processes of nature. As such, it is one of the first to utilize active and passive solar heating. The southern exposure of the building, situated on a southeast slope, receives full sun, while the northwest side, recessed into the hill, makes use of underground cooling and insulation. The offices on the south side take advantage of natural light and passive solar heating in winter, while other less-used areas occupy the north and west walls.

By Way of Introduction
The park, located 5 kilometers (3 miles) east of Republic, Mo., and 16 kilometers (10 miles) southwest of Springfield, Mo., is accessible from all major highways. From I-44 take Exit 70 (MM) to US 60 and follow Mo. M and ZZ. From US 60, follow Mo. M and ZZ. From US 65, take Business 65 and follow Mo. M and ZZ. Picnicking is available, but not overnight camping.

The visitor center and park headquarters provide introductory information about the park, the battle, and its relevance to the total Civil War story. A self-guided auto tour (see below), with marking pullouts and wayside exhibits, takes you to the major battle sites. Bloody Hill, the scene of the most intense fighting, is marked by an interpretive shelter with an audio-visual program, and a walking trail through the battlelines. Living history programs are presented during the summer and fall seasons. Contact the park headquarters for details concerning facilities and use.

Buildings, historical artifacts, geologic specimens, and the plant and animal life are protected by Federal law and must be left undisturbed. Metal detectors are prohibited, and pets should be leashed at all times. All accidents and any suggestions or complaints should be reported to park headquarters.

Wilson's Creek National Battlefield is administered by the National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior. A superintendent, whose address is Postal Drawer C, Republic, MO 65738, is in charge.

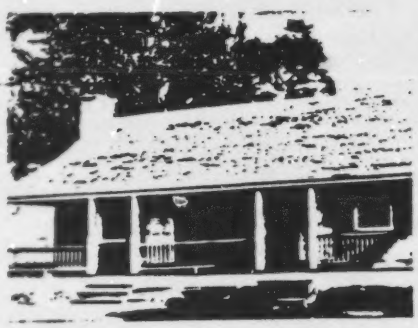
BEST COPY

Stops Along the Tour Route

1 Route of Union Advance At 5 a.m., August 10, 1861, the main body of Brig. Gen. Nathaniel Lyon's army passed by here headed toward the camps of Maj. Gen. Sterling Price's Missourians. Union troops overran Confederate outposts and moved up to the crest of Bloody Hill overlooking the awakening Southerners. From across the creek, Capt. W. E. Woodruff, Jr., observed the movement and ordered his artillery to fire at the Federals, allowing Price time to deploy his men.

Constructed about 1852, the Ray House (right) is the only surviving structure in the park associated with the battle. It served as a local post office from January 1856 until September 1866, with John A. Ray as postmaster. The house also served from November 1858 until March 30, 1860, as a flag stop on the Butterfield Overland Stage route. On August 10, 1861, the Battle of Wilson's Creek placed the Civil War squarely on the Ray doorstep. From here throughout the next four years the Rays watched soldiers and the tools of war march past on the Old Wire Road before peace finally returned to their lives and the Nation.

2 Ray House and Cornfield While his family sought refuge in the cellar, John A. Ray stood on the front porch of this house and watched the battle unfold on Bloody Hill, 1 kilometer (.7 mile) to the west. Remaining on the porch throughout the battle, he observed a line of Union troops enter his cornfield. These men were Capt. Joseph P. Plummer's U.S. Regular Battalion and two Home Guard companies. Sent across Wilson's Creek to guard the Federal left flank, Plummer saw the telling effect the Pulaski Arkansas Battery was having on Lyon's men and determined to silence these guns. As his line advanced, it was assailed and forced back across the creek by two Southern units. From Bloody Hill, Lt. John V. DuBois' battery fired on the Confederates, driving them from the cornfield to the rear of the Ray House. Exploding shells fell around the house, but it wasn't struck. Inside, Confederate surgeons, using the home as a field hospital, tended the wounded. After the battle, the house continued to serve as a hospital for wounded of both sides, as well as a temporary resting place for the body of General Lyon, which had been left on the field by retreating Federals.

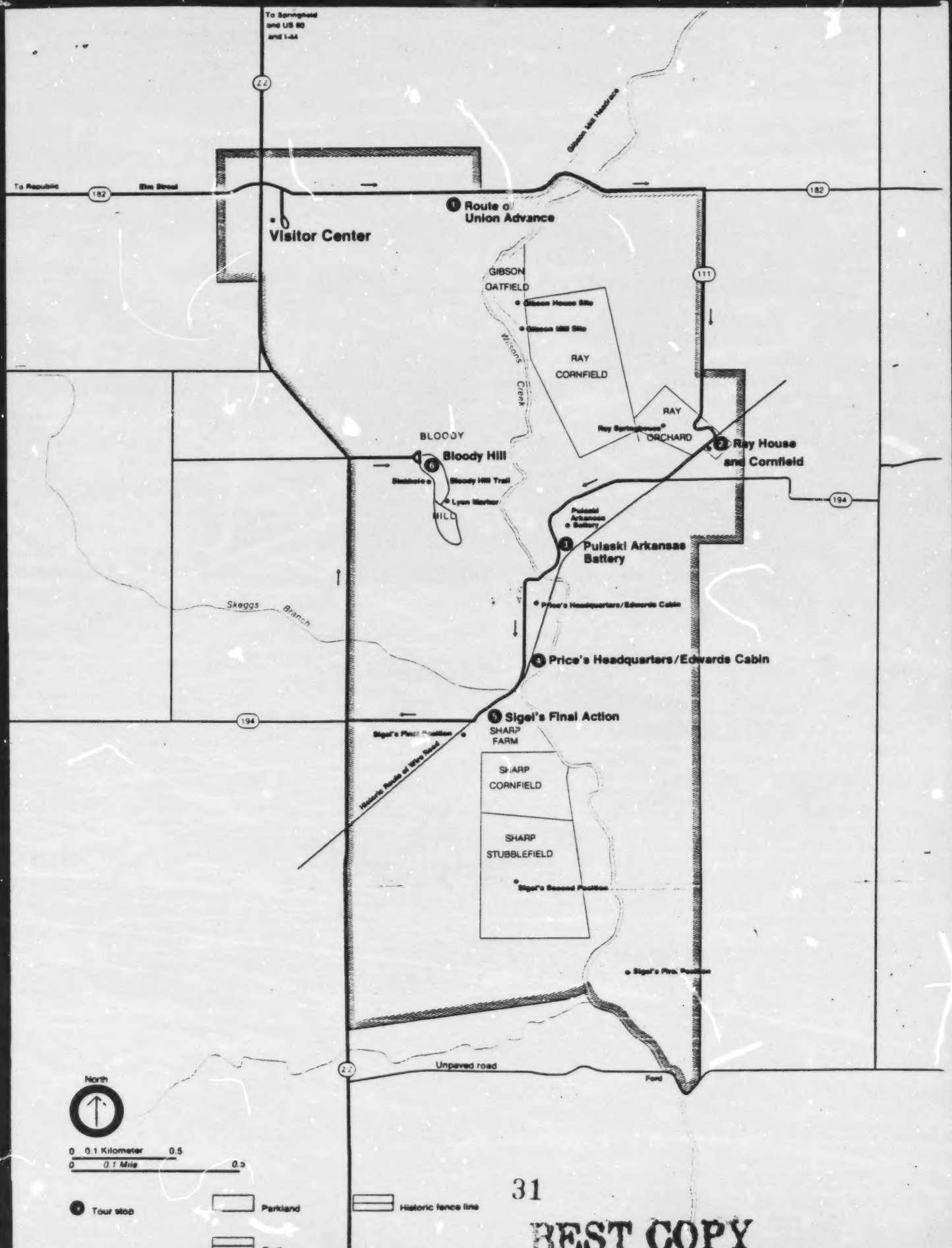


3 Pulaski Arkansas Battery From the high ground to the east, this battery opened fire, halting the Union line of battle on Bloody Hill. Responding Federal artillery forced the Arkansans to change position several times, but the battery was not silenced. The rapid and accurate fire delivered by Captain Woodruff's four bronze guns played a vital role in the Confederate victory.

4 Price's Headquarters/Edwards Cabin The major part of the Missouri State Guard bivouacked here on the bottom land along Wilson's Creek. Price himself camped in the yard of the Edwards cabin. It was here that the Confederate generals were breakfasting when the battle began. The cabin dates from this period and is similar to the one situated here in 1861. General Pearce and the Arkansas State Guard camped across the creek to the east.

5 Sigel's Final Action Col. Franz Sigel's flanking march around the Confederate position had gone undetected, and by 5 a.m. his troops were established on the ridge east of Wilson's Creek and southeast of the fields where the Southern cavalry was encamped. It was from this ridge that his artillery opened fire and surprised the Confederates at the same time Lyon's main column advanced against the encampments of the Missouri State Guard. Subsequently, Sigel's column moved west across the creek and north to this hillside. Here his men were attacked and mauled by McCulloch's troops, whom Sigel mistook for a Federal regiment and allowed to advance. His error and defeat turned the tide of battle in the Confederates' favor.

6 Bloody Hill Though this was one of the first battles of the Civil War and many troops had little training, on few other fields was there a greater display of courage and bravery. It was later reported that "some of the best blood in the land was being spilled as recklessly as if it were ditch water." On this prominence the fighting was the most intense near the *sinkhole*. Following the battle, the victorious Southerners had the gruesome task of burying the dead. The bodies of 30 Union soldiers were buried in the sinkhole. Six years later these bodies, along with others, were removed and became the nucleus of the National Cemetery in Springfield, Mo. A 1-kilometer (.7-mile) walking trail winds across the rocky crest of the hill where the climactic action of the battle took place and where Nathaniel Lyon was killed.


To Springfield and US 60 and I-44
22
To Republic
182
Elm Street
Visitor Center
1 Route of Union Advance
182
111
GIBSON OATFIELD
Gibson House Site
Gibson Mill Site
Wilsons Creek
RAY CORNFIELD
RAY ORCHARD
Ray Springhouse
2 Ray House and Cornfield
BLOODY HILL
6 Bloody Hill
Bloody Hill Trail
Lyon Marker
Pulaski Arkansas Battery
194
3 Pulaski Arkansas Battery
Price's Headquarters/Edwards Cabin
Skeggs Branch
4 Price's Headquarters/Edwards Cabin
5 Sigel's Final Action
SHARP FARM
Sigel's First Position
Historic Route of Wire Road
SHARP CORNFIELD
SHARP STUBBLEFIELD
Sigel's Second Position
Sigel's First Position
194
22
Unpaved road
Ford
North
0 0.1 Kilometer 0.5
0 0.1 Mile 0.5
Tour stop
Parkland
Trail
Historic fence line

BEST COPY